United Nations A/C.1/56/L.51/Rev.1

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
24 October 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
First Committee
Agenda item 74 (g)
General and complete disarmament: assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

Mali: revised draft resolution

Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

The General Assembly,

Considering that the proliferation, illicit circulation and traffic in small arms impede development, constitute a threat to populations and to national and regional security and represent a factor contributing to the destabilization of States,

Deeply disturbed by the magnitude of the proliferation, illicit circulation and traffic of small arms in the States of the Sahelo-Saharan subregion,

Noting with satisfaction the conclusions of the United Nations advisory missions dispatched by the Secretary-General to the affected countries of the subregion to study the most appropriate way of halting the illicit circulation of small arms and collecting them,

Welcoming the designation of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat as a centre for the coordination of all activities of United Nations bodies concerned with small arms,

Thanking the Secretary-General for his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[1] and bearing in mind the statement by the President of the Security Council on small arms on 24 September 1999,[2]

Welcoming the recommendations resulting from the meetings of the States of the subregion held at Banjul Algiers, Bamako, Yamoussoukro and Niamey to establish close regional cooperation with a view to strengthening security,

[1] A/52/871-S/1998/318.
[2] S/PRST/1999/28, see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1999*.

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Welcoming the initiative taken by the Economic Community of West African States concerning the declaration of a moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa,

Recalling the Algiers Declaration adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held at Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999,[3]

Emphasizing the need to advance efforts towards wider cooperation and better coordination in the struggle against the accumulation, proliferation and widespread use of small arms through the common understanding of the meeting on small arms, held at Oslo on 13 and 14 July 1998,[4] and the Brussels Call for Action adopted by the International Conference on Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development, held at Brussels on 12 and 13 October 1998,[5]

Bearing in mind the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons adopted at Bamako on 1 December 2000,[6]

Taking note of the Millennium Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations,[7]

Welcoming the Programme of Action of the first United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 9 to 20 July 2001,[8]

Recognizing the important role, which the organizations of civil society play in detection, prevention and arousing public awareness in efforts to curb the illicit traffic in small arms,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the declaration of the African Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation on the Continent held in Abuja on 9 May 2000,[9] encourages the Secretary-General to pursue his action in the context of the implementation of resolution 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions, aimed at curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and collecting such arms in the affected States which so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity;

2. *Encourages* the establishment in the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan subregion of national commissions to combat the proliferation of small arms, and invites the international community to lend its support wherever possible to ensure the smooth functioning of the said commissions;

3. *Welcomes* the Declaration of a Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa, which was adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic

[3] A/54/424, annex II, decision AHG/Decl. I (XXXV).
[4] See CD/1556.
[5] A/53/681, annex.
[6] A/CONF.192/PC/23, annex.
[7] A/54/2000.
[8] A/CONF.192/15, chap. IV.
[9] A/55/286, annex II, decision AHG/Decl. 4 (XXXVI).

Community of West African States in Abuja, on 31 October 1998,[10] and encourages the international community to support the implementation of the said moratorium;

4. *Encourages* that civil society organizations and associations be involved in the efforts of the national committees to combat the illicit traffic in small arms and their participation in the implementation of the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa;

5. *Takes* note of the conclusions of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States, which was held in Bamako on 24 and 25 March 1999, with respect to modalities for implementing the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development, and welcomes the adoption by the meeting of a plan of action;

6. *Encourages* cooperation between State organs, international organizations and civil society in combating the illicit traffic in small arms and supporting operations to collect the said arms in the subregions;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General, and those States and Organizations, in a position to do so, to provide assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them;

8. *Calls* on the international community to provide technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to take action to combat the illicit trade in small arms;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to consider the matter and to report to it at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session an item entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them".

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[10] A/53/763-S/1998/1194, annex.